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Bangalore Mirror

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Even as state drug regulators keep uncovering, seizing substandard medicines, reactive enforcement measures of no use to patients, say experts. Plus, minimal fines, lack of criminal prosecution keep lethal business thriving

BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW

Medicines already in circulation before they are identified

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The threat of fake and poor-quality medicines has hit Karnataka's health sector hard, with state drug regulators uncovering and seizing substandard medicines worth over ₹40 lakh in June 2025. The crackdown covered three major cities including Bengaluru, Hubballi, and Ballari, where routine inspections exposed a worrying gap in drug safety.

According to the state drug control department, 1,333 samples were collected from pharmacies and distributors for quality testing. Of these, 41 samples failed to meet prescribed standards, triggering immediate seizures from the market. Authorities also suspended the licences of 133 pharmacies, permanently cancelled 20 licences, and issued notices to 233 outlets for various violations.

The failed samples included life-saving antibiotics and essential injections, medicines that patients rely on for critical treatment. Experts warn that the consumption of such drugs can delay recovery, worsen health conditions, and, in severe cases, lead to fatalities. What makes the problem even more dangerous, they say, is that these medicines are often consumed before authorities identify and remove them from circulation.

Nationwide crisis

The Karnataka seizures are part of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"By the time a substandard medicine is identified, it has often already been consumed. Suspension of licences and seizures don't undo the damage done to patients —Public health activist

BEHIND BARS

High drama as Darshan, Pavithra arrested after Supreme Court cancels bail; fans throng actor's flat

PAGE 5

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THINGS TO DO

01 Pride in unity

This Independence Day, Phoenix Mall of Asia will transform into a grand stage of pride, unity, and music as the Indian Military Bands, with the Army Brass Band, Pipe Band, and Jazz Band, perform live. **Where: Fan Park, Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: August 15, 11 am onwards**

02 Tech savvy

Techstination, the popular Tech IP of Nexus Select Malls, is back with its third edition, bringing a wide range of gadgets and appliances from top electronics brands which are perfect for anyone planning to upgrade their personal or home tech. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Nexus Whitefield Mall, Nexus Vega City Mall; When: Until August 17, 11 am to 9 pm**

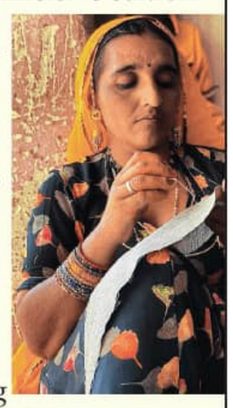
03 Divine rhythm

Natanam School of Dance is presenting an enchanting evening of Bharatanatyam,

portraying the inspiring life of saint-poet Tulsidas, and a presentation featuring a unique series of 60 performances of the Astaragamalika Varna in celebration of Karnataka Kalashree Guru Sathyanarayana Raju's Shastipoorthi (60th year). **Where: Natanam Institute of Dance, Koramangala; When: August 23**

04 Artisans' heritage

Karigar Bazaar is bringing a rare confluence of heritage, craftsmanship, and storytelling with its most immersive edition yet,



hosting over 140 master artisans from across the country—each carrying the soul of a tradition, the strength of a lineage, and the beauty of the handmade. **Where: Jayamahal Palace; When: August 9 to 17**

05 Tune in

KS Chitra, renowned for her soulful voice, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his timeless melodies. **Where: JK Grand Arena, Kengeri; When: August 16, 6 pm**

B'luru leads with robust stray management

As SC points out poor implementation of ABC Rules, 2023, BBMP data highlights B'luru as exception; high number of vaccinations and birth control surgeries shows good progress, say officials

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The Supreme Court (SC), on Thursday, criticised civic agencies for ineffective implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. A three-judge bench made the observation while hearing petitions challenging the SC's recent order to round up all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR and move them to shelter homes.

However, data on the Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programme by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) show that Bengaluru's local body is leading by example. According to BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department, more than 50,000 street dogs have been covered under the programme just in the first three months of this financial year (2025-26).

"Between April and June this year, we have vaccinated 50,055 stray dogs in the BBMP limits. In July, an additional 15,000 dogs have been vaccinated. We plan to cover more than 2 lakh street dogs by March 2026 under our ARV programme," said Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner, BBMP's Health Department.

As per the department, the number of ABC surgeries has improved, too. Between April and June, 8,193 animal birth control surgeries have been performed on stray dogs in the BBMP limits. Between April 2020 and June 2025, more than 2.75 lakh stray dogs have been neutered by BBMP.

Compared with other cities and towns, BBMP limits have a far higher percentage of neutered dogs, experts opine.

"While the municipal authorities across India have collectively failed, BBMP has done a relatively good job. BBMP, on request of animal welfare workers, not only moved to 8 ABC zones 8 years ago, but also worked with us to set up a Rabies Helpline and took a focused and result-oriented ABC/ARV approach," said Priya Chetty-Rajagopal of CJ Memorial Trust, who is a city-based animal welfare worker. "The ABC/ARV drive has ensured zero rabies deaths in the BBMP limits. This is quite a feat. However, ABC must be continued with the same gusto. Bite incidents happen because of ABC failure," said Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Scope for improvement

Raghavan added that the state government's AHVS Department should support BBMP by ensuring ABC/ARV in gram panchayat limits to avoid intact dogs coming in from other areas.

According to Nandita Subbarao, a city-based civic welfarist, awareness about the ABC programme is the need of the hour. "People still do not know how to identify an unsterilised dog and about a free service available to get them neutered. Instead of investing a large sum in street plays with a very limited reach, BBMP should consider radio clips, TV clips, print ads, flyers at bus stops and metro stations, etc," said Subbarao.

Experts also opine that BBMP should start a dedicated helpline for citizens to report any intact dogs. "Temporary camps in key areas with citizen caretakers will help in neutering and vaccinating more stray dogs," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, adding that many caretakers are ready to support ABC if their concerns are addressed.

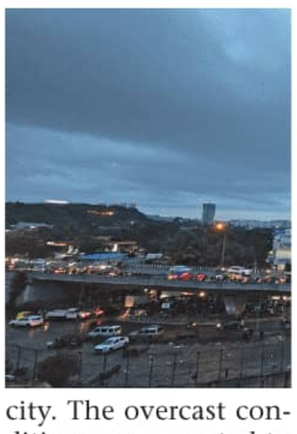
"No efforts are being made to reduce cruelty to animals. Moreover, many citizens do not know the protocol to be followed after a bite. BBMP should consider fixing these issues for better outcomes," said Chitra Amzarewale Sapre, a representative of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Robust reporting of bite cases

Between January and June this year, Bengaluru reported 10,359 stray dog bite cases across the city. In 2024, as many as 9,841 stray dog bite cases were reported in the corresponding period.

"There is a good chance that this marginal increase of 5 per cent in stray dog bite cases is due to better reporting. The number of institutions reporting dog bite cases has increased over time. Over the last two years, IHIP reporting has improved," said Kishore.

Bengaluru records coldest day of 2025



Bengaluru experienced its coldest day of the year on Wednesday, with the city recording a low of just 22.6°C. HAL Airport registered 23.7°C, while Bengaluru International Airport recorded 24.7°C. According to Namma Karnataka Weather Update on X, the entire day remained under cloud cover, accompanied by intermittent drizzles and light rains, creating a chilly and damp atmosphere across the city. The overcast conditions are expected to continue into Friday, with occasional light showers likely. The persistent cloudiness is attributed to a low-pressure area near the Andhra Pradesh coastline, which has brought heavy cloud cover over southern and northern Karnataka. — BMB

Plastic ban in state temples from today

The State's Department of Religious Endowments has announced a complete ban on all plastics, including water bottles, in all government-run temples from August 15, said Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai. Officials have been instructed to impose fines on anyone using plastic products within these temple premises. However, the ban does not apply to private temples. In addition, the department is taking steps to maintain cleanliness and manage waste scientifically. Solid and liquid waste management units are being set up in 25 selected government temples, with expert teams overseeing proper disposal. Funds collected in these temples will strictly be used for temple maintenance, restoration, basic amenities, and associated educational institutions, and not for any other purposes. — BMB

No restrictions on car pooling

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy clarified that while the state government is committed to the High Court's ruling restricting bike taxis, car pooling faces no such restrictions. Responding to BJP MLA DS Arun in the Assembly, he noted that bike taxis are allowed only in eight states across India and the ban has not affected gig workers delivering food. The electric bike taxi scheme, introduced in 2021 to provide last-mile connectivity using battery-operated electric motorcycles, was later withdrawn after complaints that some private app-based companies were using petrol-powered two-wheelers for non-transport purposes. Public transport for first-mile and last-mile connectivity remains the focus of government initiatives. — BMB

Aparna Vastare's voice now on Yellow Line

The familiar Kannada-English metro announcements voiced by the late Aparna Vastare, which passengers appreciated on the Purple and Green Lines, can now also be heard on the Yellow Line. Following her passing, many Kannadigas had requested that her voice be incorporated into announcements on

the Yellow Line. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials confirmed that, even a few months before her demise, Aparna had recorded voice prompts for the Yellow Line, ensuring her iconic presence continues across Bengaluru's metro network. — BMB

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Lazar Road dug up again amid never ending delays

Fraser Town's key corridor suffers months of chaos as repeated digging, poor coordination, and stalled white-topping work choke traffic, endanger pedestrians, and hurt local businesses

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Lazar Road, a crucial connector carrying traffic from the Lingarajapuram Flyover towards the railway underpass near Fraser Town Police Station, has been reduced to a rough, narrowed stretch for nearly six months, with no completion date in sight.

The less-than-a-kilometre road, earmarked for white topping, first saw one side dug up for water line work, followed soon after by excavation on the other side for sewerage lines. Since resurfacing was skipped in anticipation of white topping, the entire stretch has been left uneven, pockmarked, and treacherous.

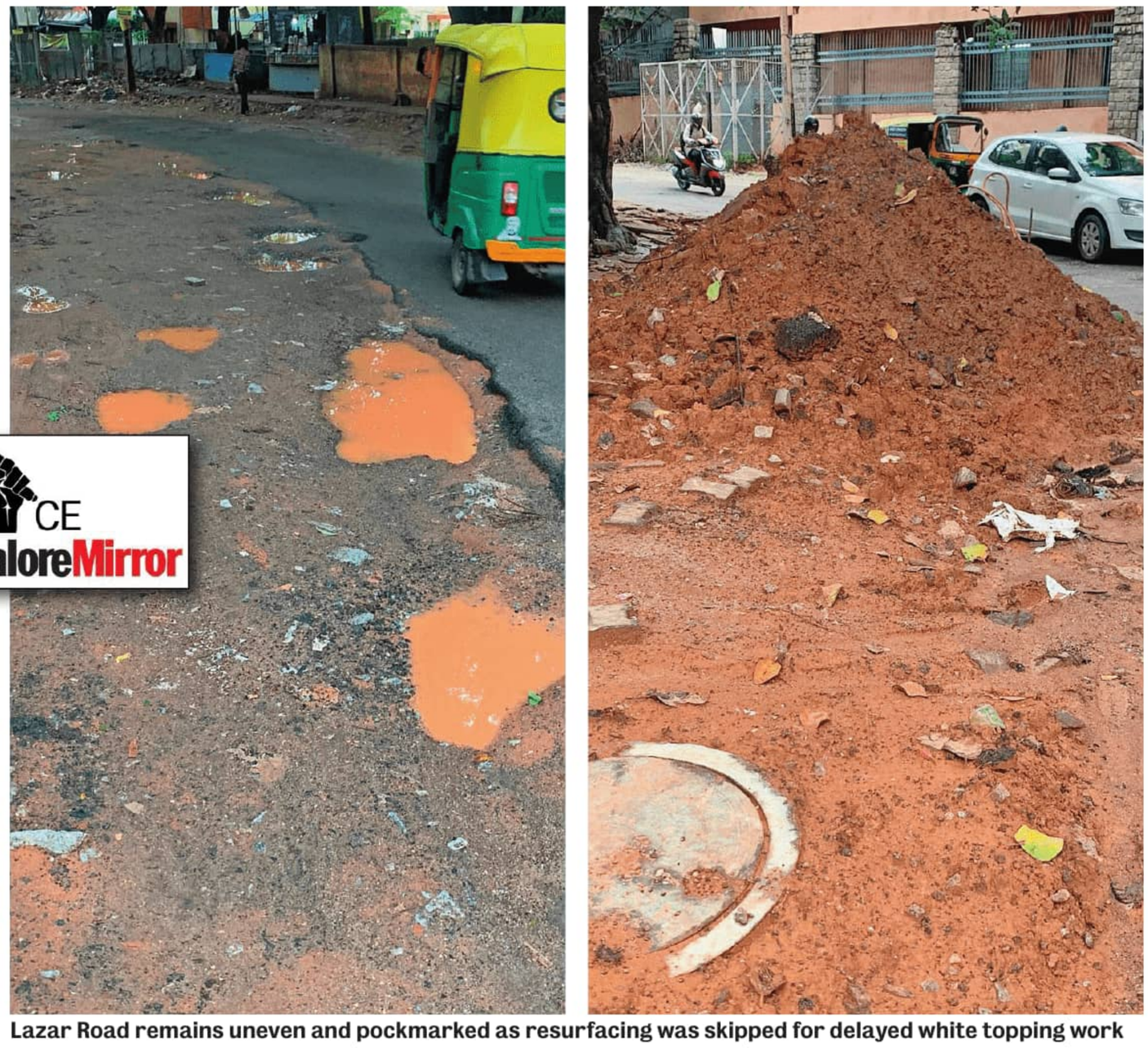
"Now, residents have learned it will be dug up yet again — this time to lay optical fibre cables," said Zaffar Sait, a local resident. The news has further angered citizens who say the project has already dragged on far too long. Locals blame the prolonged mess on poor coordination between civic agencies. "One agency finishes digging, only for another to start again. The road never gets a chance to recover," said another resident. The repeated work has eroded well-laid pavements on both sides, forcing pedestrians into the narrowed carriageway amid heavy traffic.

> **"The less-than-a-kilometre road, marked for white topping, first saw one side dug up for water line work, followed by the other side for sewerage lines**
> – Zaffar Sait, resident

The reduced road width has worsened congestion, with vehicles bottlenecking from the flyover into the underpass during peak hours. Potholes, loose debris, and uneven surfaces have made the stretch hazardous, particularly for two-wheelers, while stagnant rainwater has turned sections into muddy traps.

The disruption has affected more than just daily commuters. Emergency vehicles often face delays, while businesses along Lazar Road complain of reduced footfall due to poor accessibility. For shopkeepers, the dust, noise, and constant traffic snarls have meant dwindling sales and growing frustration.

The original promise of white topping — meant to deliver a smoother, longer-lasting surface — now feels like a distant prospect. With no clear timeline for completion, residents say they are left navigating a perpetual construction zone.



Lazar Road remains uneven and pockmarked as resurfacing was skipped for delayed white topping work

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For one of Fraser Town's busiest corridors, the repeated digging has turned a small-scale road upgrade into months of urban chaos. Without better inter-departmental planning and strict work sequencing, locals fear Lazar Road will remain an example of how poor coordination can cripple even the shortest stretches of city roads.

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Market spillover

KR Puram

Vendors have long blocked the area behind the KR Puram railway station ticket counter, leaving no space for pedestrians. Residents question BBMP's inaction on the issue.

Uncleared rubble

Indiranagar

A footpath and road at 6th A Main Road and 13th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, were dug for drainage work, but debris left behind is partially obstructing traffic.

Garbage zone

Chunchagatta

Garbage has been piling up for over three months on 1st Cross, Shamanna Garden, Chunchagatta. Despite repeated alerts to marshals, no action has been taken.

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Four-lane Hebbal ramp eases commute

The much-awaited Hebbal Flyover ramp, a 700-metre extension from KR Puram Road towards Mehkri Circle, is set for inauguration after nearly two years of work by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). Launched in 2023 at a cost of around ₹50 crore, the project has already undergone trial runs. The stretch, earlier a two-lane section from the airport side near Baptist Hospital, has been widened to four lanes, promising smoother travel from Kempegowda International Airport to Mehkri Circle and the city. BDA Commissioner P Manivannan said the inauguration, earlier planned for August 15, was postponed due to the legislative session. Once operational, the upgraded flyover is expected to ease traffic bottlenecks and improve connectivity for vehicles heading towards the city, Ballari Road, the airport, and other outstation destinations, significantly cutting travel time for daily commuters and airport-bound travellers. — BMB

State revamps 108 ambulance services

The Karnataka government has sanctioned ₹6.09 crore for ICT equipment to establish a state-wide Command and Control Center, enhancing ambulance services. The initiative includes setting up control rooms in all districts to ensure quicker, more coordinated emergency responses. Managed by the Karnataka Digital Health Society, the project will bring the 108 Health Kavach ambulance service entirely under the Health and Family Welfare Department, ending the previous partnership with GVK EMRI. All procurement will follow applicable laws, aiming to improve accessibility, efficiency, and accountability in emergency medical services across the state. — BMB

Darshan, Pavithra Gowda arrested after SC cancels bail

SC says no special treatment for actor in jail, warns of strict repercussions for officials

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Actor Darshan and his close associate, Pavithra Gowda, were arrested on Thursday after the Supreme Court cancelled the bail granted to them and other accused in the high-profile Renukaswamy murder case. The apex court ordered all accused to surrender immediately, underscoring that no individual, regardless of their popularity or influence, is above the law.

Top court strikes down HC's order

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan set aside the Karnataka High Court's December 13, 2024, order that had granted bail to Darshan and 16 others.

"The trial court is alone the appropriate forum to examine the evidence in detail. The well-founded allegations, supported by forensic evidence, make a strong case for bail cancellation," Justice Mahadevan said. Justice Pardiwala emphasised that the judgment serves as a message that the justice delivery system must uphold the rule of law without fear or favour. "No man is above the law or below it," he said.

Warning against VIP treatment in jail

The Supreme Court also cautioned the Karnataka government against providing any special privileges to the accused while in custody. "The day we come to know that the accused persons are being provided five-star treatment, the first step would be to place the superintendent into suspension along with all other officials," the bench warned.

Fans crowded outside the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station after actor Darshan was arrested on Thursday

Victim's family hails verdict

The family of the victim, 33-year-old Renukaswamy from Chitradurga, welcomed the top court's ruling. His father, Shivanagouda, said, "Our faith in the government, judiciary, and police has increased after the Supreme Court cancelled actor Darshan's bail. We thank the government. Our aim is to see that the criminal is punished. This will give peace to my son who was murdered."

Security tightened at Ballari prison

In anticipation of Darshan's transfer, security has been tightened at Ballari prison. A high-security cell has been prepared, and the compound wall — previously scaled by fans hoping to catch a glimpse of the actor — has been raised to 25 feet to prevent unauthorised entry. Officials said that preparations for Independance Day are being carried alongside the enhanced security arrangements.

Tricks to dodge spotlight

In a swift post-Supreme Court order crackdown, Kannada actor Darshan was picked up from his wife's apartment in Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru, on Thursday. Police teams, tracking his movements since learning he was out of town, intercepted him after he returned from Tamil Nadu — where he had attended a horse fair — and stopped briefly in Mysuru and Madikeri. Sources say Darshan tried to dodge the spotlight by switching cars and slipping into the flat via a back entrance. Wearing a white mask, the actor was escorted to Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station for a medical check before being taken to court. Meanwhile, fans thronged the apartment complex, chanting slogans in his support.

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No new instructions, just enforce ban on PoP idols

Court bench disposes state pollution board's plea, asks govt, agencies to clamp down on manufacture, distribution, sale of idols made from banned material

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The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday emphasised that the State government and its agencies must diligently enforce the ban on the manufacture, distribution, and sale of idols made from Plaster of Paris (PoP), in line with existing laws.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi made the observation while disposing of a petition filed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). The Board had sought a directive to the Urban Development Department and other authorities to implement a September 15, 2023, government notification prohibiting PoP idols.

IN HIGH COURT

State Pollution Board claimed that idols from the sealed premises were being illegally removed for sale

The court declined to issue fresh directions, noting that the 2023 ban order remains valid and

> **"The 2023 ban order (on PoP idols) remains valid and that it is the responsibility of the authorities concerned to enforce it** – High Court bench

that it is the responsibility of the concerned authorities to enforce it.

In its plea, the KSPCB alleged that despite the ban, certain manufacturers continued producing PoP idols. It cited a recent case in which a manufacturing unit at Kumbalgodu, near Kengeri, was sealed. However, the Board claimed that idols from the sealed premises were being illegally removed for sale. The State's counsel informed the court that an FIR had been registered over the Kumbalgodu incident and that further action was in progress.

'School admission not breach of right to life'

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that refusal of admission to a minor in a private unaided school does not, by itself, amount to a breach of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered the ruling while rejecting a petition filed by Muzammil Kazi, who sought a direction to St. Paul's High School to admit his son to the LKG programme. The petitioner argued that education is a matter of public interest and that even unaided schools are subject to the High Court's writ jurisdiction under Article 226.

He claimed the school had initially intimated his son's selection and scheduled a meeting with the principal, but later changed the status to "verification pending" on its website.

The school countered that the petition was not maintainable as it was a private unaided institution. It explained that the erroneous selection message was sent to 61 students despite all 150 available seats already being filled. Admitting the additional students would exceed sanctioned capacity, it said.

The bench noted that the petition did not allege any discrimination or violation of Articles 14 or 19 and observed that admission to the respondent school was not the only way to secure the child's right to education.

Justice Govindaraj clarified that the High Court can, in principle, review actions of private unaided schools under Article 226 if they infringe fundamental rights or involve a public element. However, in this case, no such violation was established.

"Merely because respondent No.3 is a private unaided school would not mean that this Court would not exercise the power of judicial review... if an action impinges on the fundamental or constitutional rights of a citizen," the court said. Nonetheless, it found no infringement of rights and dismissed the plea.

Police training school scandal: Bribery 101 taint

In a jaw-dropping twist straight out of a crime thriller, police trainees in Karnataka's training schools are getting an unscheduled lesson in corruption from their senior officers. Reports have emerged that trainee constables and sub-inspectors in schools at Thanisandra (Bengaluru) and Imangala (Chitradurga) were coerced into paying bribes to their instructors—turning the very institutions meant to instill discipline into classrooms of crooked commerce.

At Thanisandra, a sub-inspector allegedly threatened trainees and collected ₹30,500 via UPI from their friends, a sum confirmed by documentary evidence. The school principal promptly filed a complaint with the Sampigehalli police station, resulting in a criminal case against him.

Meanwhile, in Imangala, a Head Constable and a constable are accused of siphoning ₹62,000 from trainees for perks like birthday parties and minor purchases. Both have been suspended pending further investigation.

This isn't a one-off: allegations of trainers demanding cash, accepting gifts, or otherwise exploiting their positions have spurred the state's ADGP Alon Kumar to crack down. Posters with complaint numbers will soon alert trainees to report any bribery attempts immediately. **— BMB**

Health screening for auto, cab drivers on the cards

The Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Thursday said the state government is considering launching a dedicated health screening programme for auto rickshaw and cab drivers, following reports of a significant rise in heart attack cases among them.

Responding to a question during Question Hour in the Assembly, Rao emphasised the need to strengthen the state's health screening system.

He cited data from the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, which revealed that last year, 20–30 percent of heart attack cases were among auto and cab drivers.

"This is due to pollution, lack of sleep, irregular eating habits, stress, high blood pressure, diabetes, and untreated comorbidities — it is everything combined," he said. **PTI**

CRIME FILES

FIR against fake Lokayukta Officer

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered another case against an unidentified person for allegedly impersonating a Lokayukta Deputy Superintendent of Police and threatening BBMP officials with false complaints. The case was filed based on a complaint by Pradeep Kumar PM, DySP, Lokayukta, who said the accused had called the Chief Engineer, BBMP Yelahanka Zone, last Monday, asking him to meet in person the next day. The same day, the impersonator also phoned the Executive Engineer, BBMKP, advising him not to report to work as a complaint had been filed against him.

When the Chief Engineer visited the Lokayukta office, he realised that the calls were fake and someone was misusing the officer's name for personal gain. Lokayukta officials traced the number and found it was saved in Truecaller as "Lokayukta DySP." Police have booked the accused under Section 204 (impersonating a public servant) of the BNS and launched an investigation. This is the third such case registered this year. **— BMB**

Woman held for abusing raffic police

A woman was arrested on Thursday after allegedly hurling obscene abuses, making vulgar gestures, and obstructing traffic police officers on duty during a no-parking enforcement drive in Yelahanka. According to police, the incident occurred around 11.30 am when a traffic enforcement team were booking vehicles illegally parked in a school and college zone between Seshadripuram College and Chikkabommasandra Arch.

Around 12.30 pm, the team, comprising ASI Kantaraju, VSI Panchaksharaiah, and VSI Manjula, clamped a motorcycle parked in a no-parking spot outside Seshadripuram College. When the owner, identified as Mohammed Sarbas, arrived, he allegedly refused to pay the fine and argued with the officers. Shortly after, a woman on a scooter, identified Hiral Vyas (37) arrived at the spot. Police allege she intervened on Sarbas's behalf, refusing to pay the fine, and began verbally abusing the officers in public using highly obscene language. She also allegedly made vulgar gestures towards the female officer and insulted other team members. **— BMB**

Cooperative bank under scanner

A cooperative bank in VV Puram has come under police investigation after a former employee accused its officials of withholding her matured fixed deposits worth ₹13 lakh. The deposits, made between 2019 and 2023 in multiple accounts, ranged from ₹1 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh each. The complainant stated that she had submitted all the deposit bonds after maturity, but the bank allegedly failed to return the money. Police have registered a cheating case against the bank officials and are investigating further. **— BMB**

Mother sells newborn, files plaint to get baby back

The Devarajeevana Halli police have registered a case of human trafficking against three persons, including two women, for allegedly buying a newborn baby girl from her mother for ₹2.5 lakh.

According to the complaint, Naseema Babu (33), a resident of Vinoba Nagar, admitted that she sold her fourth child to Amuda, Ramya, and Kannan soon after delivering the baby at Ghosha Hospital, Shivaji Nagar, on July 26. She told police she was in desperate need of money at the time.

Naseema, married to Dastagir for 15 years, has four children, two daughters and two sons. The newborn, her youngest daughter, was handed over to the accused within days of birth.

However, Naseema later regretted her decision and asked the accused to return the baby. When they refused, she approached the police. **— BMB**

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15-day probe cost nearly ₹50 lakh

Personnel from various departments, excavator, labour costs and usage of GPR tech rides up bill

The alleged mass burial probe in Dharmasthala village, conducted in multiple phases from July 28 to August 13, reportedly cost over 50 lakh. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the state government included inspectors and more than 20 officials, with support from the Puttur Assistant Commissioner, Belthangady Tahsildar, and revenue, health, and police personnel. Daily expenses for the operation, including an earth excavator and labour costs, were around 1.5–2 lakh.

According to government sources, the total cost over 15 days amounted to roughly 30 lakh, with an additional 18 lakh spent on radar usage for two days, bringing the overall expenditure for the operation close to 48–50 lakh.

IN FOCUS
DHARMASTHALA CASE PROBE

The Special Investigation Team deployed Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology at Site No. 13

'Don't bring politics, religion into this'

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday told the Legislative Assembly that action can be taken against the complainant-witness in the Dharmasthala case if the SIT finds his allegations to be false.

Emphasising a fair and impartial probe, Parameshwara said, "There should be no politics or religion involved. The truth must emerge within the framework of the law." His remarks came during a discussion in the Assembly, where BJP legislators criticised the government's handling of the investigation and alleged inaction against what they called a "slander campaign" targeting Dharmasthala and the temple there.

The legislators demanded an interim report and action against the complainant and others allegedly behind him, claiming the allegations were part of a "toolkit to denigrate Hindu gods and their places of worship."

The SIT, formed by the state government, is probing claims of mass murder, rape, and mass burials in Dharmasthala over the past two decades.

The complainant, a former sanitation worker whose identity has not been revealed, alleged that between 1995 and 2014 he was forced to handle bodies—including women and minors—and that some showed signs of sexual assault. He has given a statement before a magistrate.

Parameshwara appealed to members, saying, "My only request is that this issue should not take political or religious turns. Let me make it very clear—the government did not form the SIT under any pressure. We have not bowed to pressure so far and will not do so in the future. Our focus is solely on uncovering the truth and ensuring justice."

He added that everyone on the ruling side, including himself, has great respect and devotion towards Dharmasthala, which he has visited multiple times.

Highlighting its widespread reverence nationally and globally, he noted that under Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade's leadership, the temple and its institutions support women's welfare and educate thousands of students.

"Shouldn't the truth behind these allegations come out? Should such claims be allowed to linger? We formed the SIT to find the truth, so that those facing allegations are treated fairly," he said.

Responding to questions on the probe, Parameshwara said, "The police are doing their duty in the pursuit of justice, but that does not mean they will follow everything the complainant says. There will be an end to it, and the truth will eventually come out." **–BMB & Agencies**

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Lawn Tennis Association mourns Vece Paes' passing

Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) on Thursday mourned the sad demise of Vece Paes, the charismatic midfielder from the golden era of Indian Hockey. He was part of the Olympic Bronze medal-winning team in the 1972 Munich Olympics, according to a release from KSLTA.

An unshakable pillar of Indian sports, the 80-year-old Dr Paes leaves behind a legacy of achievement both in and out of competition, motivating countless athletes and sports admirers.

"On behalf of KSLTA, we express our deepest condolences to Leander, his mother Jennifer and the entire family on the passing of Dr Paes. It is indeed a sad day for sports in general, as Dr Paes was a great advocate of building a strong sporting culture in the country. He was at the forefront of sports science in the country, and his contributions will be remembered forever," said Sunil Yajaman, KSLTA. **–ANI**

Indian women's team wraps up preparatory camp

The Indian women's team has completed a 10-day preparatory camp at the BCCI Centre of Excellence, with a focus on preparing well for the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup, set to happen from September 30 to November 2.

As per visuals posted by the BCCI on social media, the camp focused on strength and conditioning drills along with match simulations and essential skill-related practices. The Indian team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, also took part in intensive practice sessions and played a series of practice matches under the supervision of head coach Amol Muzumdar.

"The Indian Women's Team completed a 10-day World Cup preparatory camp at the BCCI Centre of Excellence, focusing on specific strength and conditioning activities along with match simulations," BCCI wrote on X. **–IANS**

Kho Kho champs at I-Day fete

In a historic first for the indigenous sport, players from the Indian men's and women's Kho Kho World Cup-winning teams have been invited as special guests to the 79th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. The invitation marks the first time Kho Kho players will be part of India's Independence Day ceremony.

Earlier this year, both Indian teams made history by clinching the men's and women's titles at the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from January 13 to 19. The tournament saw participation from 39 teams (20 men's and 19 women's) representing 23 countries across six continents.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in the Independence Day address from the Red Fort on August 15. This year's celebration will host around 5,000 special guests. **–IANS**

SC asks EC to publish details of 65 lakh deleted voters

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to publish details of 65 lakh deleted names from the voters list with reasons of non-inclusion to enhance transparency in Bihar's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi passed the order while hearing pleas challenging the June 24 ECI decision to conduct the SIR of electoral roll in Bihar.

The list comprising names of those who have died, migrated or moved to other constituencies was directed to be displayed along with reasons at the panchayat level office and the office of district level returning officers.

The bench stressed on giving wide publicity via newspapers, TV channels and radio to the public informing the people about the places where the list would be available. The top court allowed people aggrieved by the deletion of names to approach officials along with their Aadhaar card. "The ECI shall obtain a compliance report from all the booth level officers and District Election Officers," the bench said and posted the matter for August 22. **–PTI**

CLOSERHOME

Downpour in Telangana, Himachal

Heavy rain continued to pound parts of Telangana under the impact of a low-pressure area, paralysing normal life and affecting road connectivity to some villages.

Rivulets, lakes and ponds were overflowing due to incessant rain, inundating low-lying areas. The low-pressure system has impacted south Telangana with heavy to very heavy rain at a few places, officials said.

Meanwhile, continuous heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has caused fresh damage across several parts of Himachal Pradesh, with no signs of immediate relief. While no major casualties were reported overnight, infrastructure losses remain significant, particularly to the road network, Education Minister Rohit Thakur said on Thursday.

"The damage is occurring at multiple locations due to ongoing rain. Even last night, significant losses occurred, though they were mostly related to infrastructure," Thakur told reporters. He confirmed that cloudburst incidents have been reported from the Rampur assembly constituency. **– Agencies**

SC calls Vantara jumbo plea vague

The Supreme Court on Thursday termed as "completely vague" a plea seeking to constitute a monitoring committee to return the captive elephants in Vantara, a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre for wild animals.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and P B Varale told advocate C R Jaya Sukin, petitioner in person, that he was making allegations against Vantara without even adding them as party.

The top court asked the petitioner to implead Vantara in the petition.

"You are making allegations against parties which are not represented here. You have not made them respondents. You implead them and then come back to us we will see," the bench said and posted the matter for August 25.

The apex court also tagged a similar petition with Sukin's plea. **–PTI**

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Sub-standard meds worth Rs 40L seized this June

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a larger national pattern of rising cases of counterfeit and substandard medicines. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) tested 1.06 lakh drug samples across the country. Nearly 3,000 were found unfit for use, while 282 were confirmed as fake or adulterated.

Over the past five years (2019–2024), India has reported 13,735 cases of poor-quality medicines, an average of more than 3,000 cases every year. Health activists point out that these figures only reflect detected cases, meaning the actual extent of the problem could be much higher.

While Karnataka's recent crackdown has been swift, health rights groups argue that the enforcement measures are often reactive rather than preventive.

"By the time a substandard medicine is identified, it has often already been consumed. Suspension of licences and seizures don't undo the damage done to patients," a Bengaluru-based public health activist told BM.

Currently, companies found violating quality norms in the state face licence suspension and, in some cases, cancellation. However, fines are minimal and criminal prosecution is rare, allowing repeat offenders to remain in business.

Preventive measures

Fake and substandard medicines not only fail to treat illnesses but can also harm patients, experts warn. "Every treatment depends on the drug's dose, quality, and mode of action," said Dr. Sheela Murali Chakravarthy, Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital while speaking to BM. "When any of these factors are compromised, the patient's recovery suffers, and doctors are left dealing with complications that could have been avoided."

She further stressed the urgent need for preventive regulation. "All medicines are metabolised by the liver or kidneys. If the drug quality is poor, these vital organs can be damaged. This is why we need strong, standardised regulatory measures, prevention is far better than a cure when it comes to drug safety," she added.

Stricter rules on paper

The Centre has introduced new measures aimed at tightening regulation. From June 29, 2024, stricter manufacturing rules came into effect. These include mandatory barcode and QR code labelling for better traceability and limiting the manufacturing of certain categories of medicines to companies with an annual turnover above ₹250 crore. These manufacturers must comply by December 31, 2025.

Yet, implementation remains patchy. Experts say that without stronger penalties, faster prosecutions, and robust monitoring systems, unsafe medicines will continue to enter the market.

For Karnataka, the recent findings are a reminder that even urban markets and reputed pharmacies are not immune to the menace. As the state works to enforce regulations, the gap between the law and on-the-ground safety measures continues to leave patients vulnerable. Experts caution that until detection systems become faster and penalties tougher, the risk from substandard and fake medicines will remain a lethal threat to public health.

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I, Trupti D/o Mohankant Rangadal R/O #103,GF, Dhaneshwari Divine, Beml 7th Stage, Mylasandra,R V Niketan, B'luru 560059 have changed my name to Trupti Rangadal for all purposes.

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- Narendra Modi

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Micro-dramas, the future

Zareen Khan was all praise for the micro-drama format. "Microdramas are such a fresh concept that's taking over the content scene right now," she said

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Excitement all around

Bollywood star Bobby Deol has joined actresses Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in YRF's spy thriller 'Alpha'.

The makers have shared this major update through post-credits scenes of Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr-starrer 'War 2'.

The post-credits scene offers the first glimpse of Bobby Deol's character from Alpha. Many netizens, who have watched War 2 in theatres on Thursday, have shared the clip on social media in which Bobby's character is seen stamping the logo of a covert agency onto the hand of a young girl.

The girl asks him what it is. To this, he explains the reason behind the 'Alpha'.

Sharvari, who stars in YRF's first female spy film Alpha, shared her excitement on social media, saying she's "Feeling toooo tooo tooooo overwhelmed and proud to be a part of this incredible cinematic universe! YRF Spy universe is jusssssst AAAAAHHHHH!!!!"

She also praised Bobby Deol's scene-stealing moment in the reveal, calling his screen presence "Whoooaaaa @iambobbydeol sirrrr!!! Your screen presence is just What an introduction to you & Alpha in War 2!! ".

If reports are to be believed, Bobby will be seen as a villain in 'Alpha', which is directed by Shiv Rawail. It is set to release on December 25.

–ANI

'Every step with your name'

Janhvi remembers mom with heartfelt post

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor on Thursday paid a heartwarming tribute to her late mother, the legendary Sridevi.

Earlier on Wednesday, Janhvi observed Sridevi's 62nd birth anniversary by paying a visit to Tirumala Tirupati Balaji Temple in Andhra Pradesh to offer prayers. The day after, she took to her Instagram handle and shared a string of old family pictures. The first picture shows a very young Boney Kapoor and Sridevi holding baby Janhvi, while the other ones feature the family together.

One of them shows young Janhvi and Khushi dressed in traditional outfits and posing with their parents.

"Happy Birthday Mumma every step with your name in my heart," the actress wrote in her caption.

On Wednesday, Sidharth Malhotra, who also accompanied Janhvi to the temple, shared a video in which they were seen heading together. He also mentioned that it was his first-ever visit to Tirumala Temple, further adding that his 'Param Sundari' co-star offers prayers every year.

Meanwhile, Janhvi' father, producer Boney Kapoor and her sister, Khushi Kapoor, also shared posts, remembering Sridevi on her birth anniversary. "Yesssss, you are not 62 today. You are 26. Happy birthday, we are still reliving all your happy birthdays," Boney Kapoor wrote in one of his posts.

–ANI

Violence & gore take centerstage

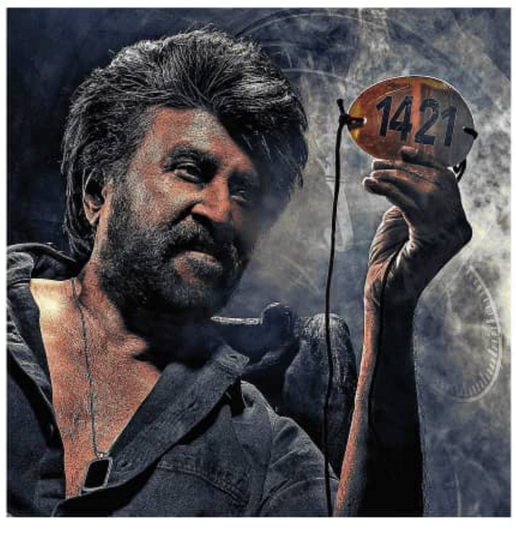
COOLIE (KANNADA)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Lokesh Kanagaraj
- **ACTORS** Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Amir Khan, Upendra, Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir, Rachita Ram, Shruthi Haasan, and Pooja Hegde.
- **Duration** 170 minutes
- **Certification** A

Coolie is not only a multi-lingual movie but also a multi-starrer. Though director Lokesh Kanagaraj had the freedom to select actors of his choice, his selection may not help the movie much at the box office. This is because actors from other languages like Upendra, Rachita Ram, Aamir Khan, and Nagarjuna have nothing to do in this movie that is dominated by Rajinikant.

Upendra appears in a few scenes during the post-intermission session while talented actor Aamir Khan has just a cameo. Rachita Ram, who played the heroine in the recently re-released upgraded version of Sanju Weds Geetha 2, is seen in a different character.



Nagarjuna, known for playing the lead roles in romance, action, and devotional movies, plays the villain.

The director has given too much importance for violence and gore. And sadly, there is no relief to the audiences in terms of a few comedy and emotional elements. The plot of the movie is also far from convincing. The movie revolves around a mobile cremator and heart trafficking (this particular word is uttered by one of the characters in the movie), and the hero taking revenge on the villain for killing his relative.

The movie begins with Dayal (Soubin Shahir), the henchman of Simon (Nagarjuna), ruthlessly punishing police informers among the labourers working at Visakhapatnam port. Simon directs Dayal to cremate a body with the help of Rajasekhar, who has invented a mobile cremator. Later the scene shifts to Nellore where Deva (Rajinikant) owns a mansion. Deva, after coming to know that Rajasekhar has passed away, comes to Visakhapatnam to attend the funeral but Preethi (Shruthi Haasan), the 'daughter' of late Rajasekhar, embarrasses him. Deva decides to find out how Rajasekhar died. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Deva takes revenge and what is the connection between Deva and Preethi.

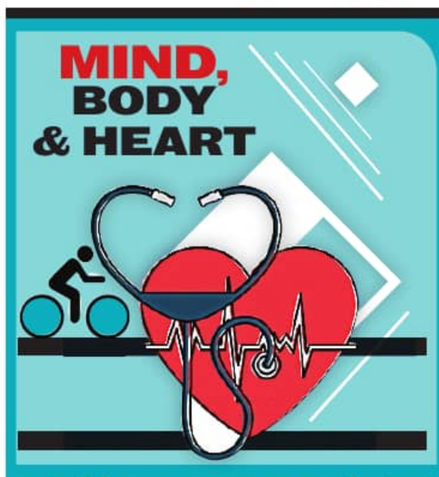
Though Rajinikant has acted well, too much violence and gore play spoilsport. Nagarjuna looks tired throughout the movie. Sathyaraj provides good support. Shruthi Haasan has nothing to do in this movie except yelling and crying. Pooja Hegde appears in a song without any justification. Soubin Shahir, as a vicious villain, is convincing.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch if you are a hardcore fan of Rajinikanth.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

HEALTH TIP: Honey is among the oldest ingredients used for throat pains and it does a very effective job

Practicing stress-relieving exercises or activities can help bring down the intensity of a headache



All you need to know about...

Japanese interval walking

What is it
This method of walking is done in three phases.
- The first phrase is walking at a slow or normal pace for about 2-3 minutes. This is the warm-up stage, so walk as you normally would; avoid using your phone or listening to music. Instead, look around and absorb.
- In the second phrase, the pace is increased, and now the walk is converted into a brisk walk. Ensure that you keep your posture straight without slouching, chin up and mouth closed. The second phrase lasts for about 5–8 minutes.
- In the third phrase, slow down again and walk at a slower, breathing through your nostrils, with your posture upright, looking forward, not on the ground.
- Repeat these steps for about 3-5 times for optimal results.

How is it better?
Several comparative studies concluded that 30 minutes of Japanese interval walking is more effective than 90 or more minutes of the normal step count, burning more calories, improving cardiovascular health and resulting in long-term benefits.

How many rounds?
Minimum 2 cycles and ideally 5 cycles per day are recommended.

What are the benefits?
Walking 10k steps has numerous health benefits like stronger bones and muscles, improved blood sugar levels, and better cardiovascular health. It also helps you maintain a slightly active lifestyle, reducing the risk of chronic and lifestyle-induced illnesses.

Is jogging a better option?
Jogging burns more calories than interval method but Japanese interval method is better for your joints.

Can I run instead of brisk walking?
You absolutely can do that, running will also give similar results. **-Femina**

SNOOZE BUTTON

Experts say it's worth easing kids back into a regular sleep routine after vacations

After a summer of vacations and late nights, it's time to set those back-to-school alarms.

A good night's sleep helps students stay focused and attentive in class. Experts say it's worth easing kids back into a routine with the start of a new school year.

"We don't say ' get good sleep ' just because," said pediatrician Dr. Gabrina Dixon with Children's National Hospital. "It really helps kids learn and it helps them function throughout the day."

The amount of sleep kids need changes as they age. Preschoolers should get up to 13 hours of sleep. Tweens need between nine and 12 hours. Teenagers do best with eight to 10 hours of shut-eye.

Early bedtimes can slip through the cracks over the summer as kids stay up for sleepovers, movie marathons and long plane flights. To get back on track, experts recommend setting earlier bedtimes a week or two before the first day of school or gradually going to bed 15 to 30 minutes earlier each night.

Don't eat a heavy meal before bed and avoid TV or screen time two hours before sleep. Instead, work in relaxing activities to slow down like showering and reading a story.

"You're trying to take the cognitive load off your mind," said Dr. Nitun Verma, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. "It would be like if you're driving, you're slowly letting go of the gas pedal."

Parents can adjust their back-to-school plans based on what works best for their child. Nikkya Hargrove moves her twin daughters' bedtimes up by 30 minutes the week before school starts.

Sometimes, her 10-year-olds will negotiate for a few extra minutes to stay up and read. Hargrove said those conversations are important as her children get older and advocate for themselves. If they stay up too late and don't have the best morning, Hargrove said that can be a learning experience too.

"If they're groggy and they don't like how they feel, then they know, 'OK, I have to go to bed earlier,'" said Hargrove, an author and independent bookstore owner from Connecticut.

In the morning, soaking in some daylight by sitting at a window or going outside can help train the brain to power up, Verma said.

Sleep quality matters just as much as duration. First-day jitters can make it hard to fall asleep no matter how early the bedtime.

Dixon says parents can talk to their kids to find out what is making them anxious. Is it the first day at a new school? Is it a fear of making new friends? Then they might try a test run of stressful activities before school starts to make those tasks feel less scary — for example, by visiting the school or meeting classmates at an open house.

> **Don't eat a heavy meal before bed and avoid TV or screen time two hours before sleep; work in relaxing activities to slow down**

The weeks leading up can be jam-packed and it's not always possible to prep a routine in advance. But kids will adjust eventually so sleep experts say parents should do what they can. After all, their kids aren't the only ones adjusting to a new routine.

"I always say, 'Take a deep breath, it'll be OK,'" Dixon said. "And just start that schedule."

-AP

MIRRORLIGHTS

Hot, humid days may spike risk of heart-related emergency six-fold: Study

Risk of an emergency visit to a hospital for a heart problem could be six times higher on hot and humid days, compared to hot days with low humidity, according to an analysis of over 3.4 lakh such visits during 2014-2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Researchers from Tulane University in the US and Bangladesh's National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases modelled the emergency visits made during summer months against historical data of temperature and humidity in Dhaka.

Findings published in the journal Science of The Total Environment reveal that while heat alone can heighten the risk of a heart-related emergency by 4.4 per cent, on most humid days -- with relative humidity peaking at 82%-- the risk rose to 26.7 %. "(The study's) findings show we need to consider heat and humidity together when we discuss any kind of climate change policy," said first author Mostafijur Rahman, an assistant professor of environmental health sciences at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Under continued global warming, the number of hot and humid days in a year is projected to increase, with tropical countries said to be more vulnerable. Humid conditions -- high moisture in the air -- hampers one's ability to sweat and bring down the body's temperature, forcing the heart to pump harder. **-PTI**

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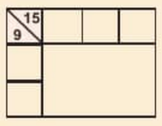
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

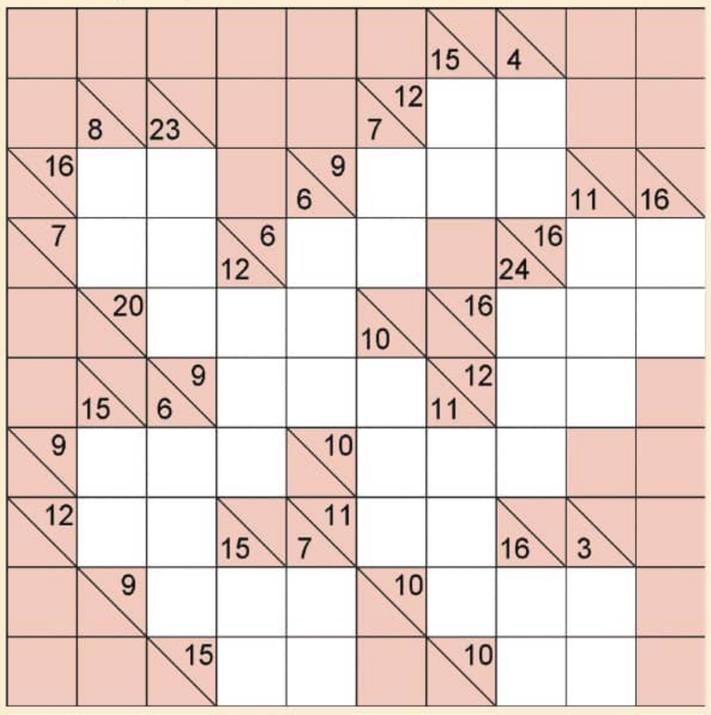
[(8! + 9!/) / 10!] / [(20! / (18! + 19!)]= ?

Kakuro

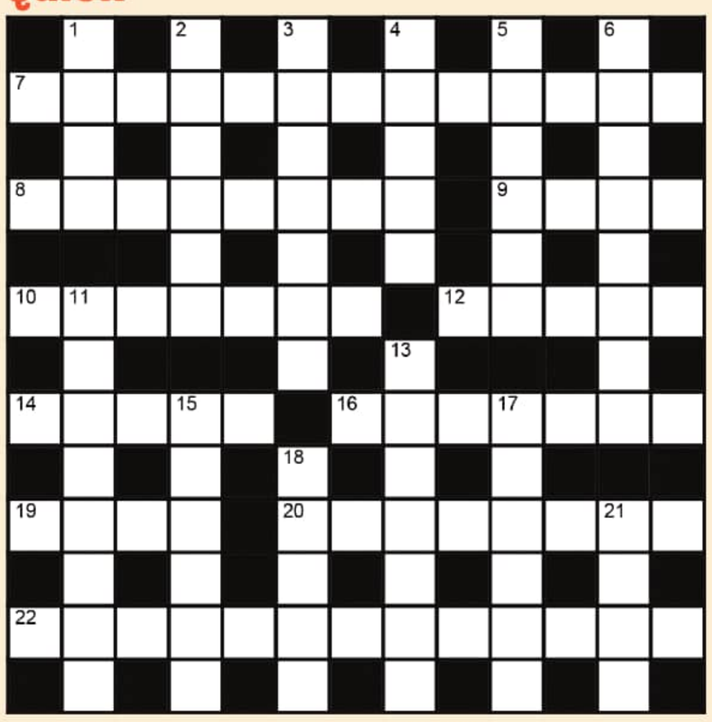
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Christopher Nolan's highly successful movie (3,4,6)
8 Meaningless nonsense talk (4-4)
9 Hand out the cards (4)
10 Sense intended? (7)
12 Bestow (5)
14 A steamed dosa (5)
16 F in F1 (7)
19 Peruvian Indian (4)
20 Now Zimbabwe (8)
22 Nearby or close at hand, perhaps (2,3,8)

DOWN

1 Synagogue–"huls" anagram? (4)
2 __ __ out : person or thing different from all others in a group? (3,3)
3 Dublin is its capital (7)
4 Supply meagrely (5)
5 Burnt out piece of coal, etc. (6)
6 Bomb fragments (8)
11 Advocate (8)
13 On this occasion only (3,4)
15 Coldness or indifference (6)
17 Sicilian spouter (2,4)
18 Valiant and fearless (5)
21 International Air Transport Assoc. (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS G

WS NZNKLT ZUZLTPAWSE DZZND PK AFHHZS PK NYDWM.

Linemaro

How I know your name? How could I forget such a beautiful girl's name?

Mindchow

It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not

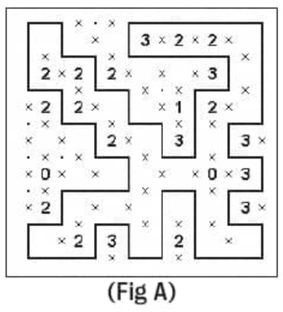
Joke of the day

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? It's ok, he woke up

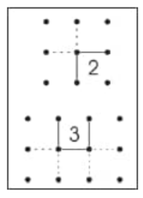
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

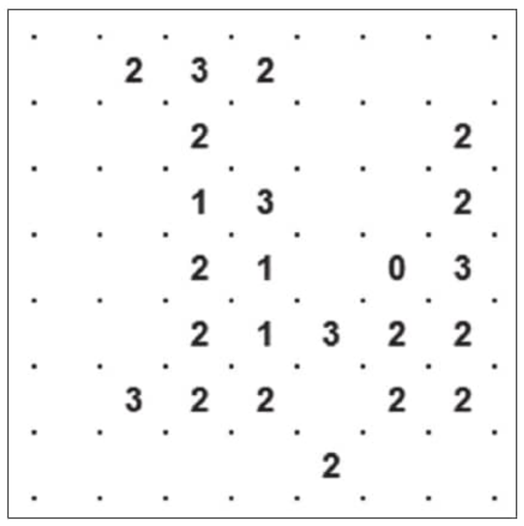


(Fig B) Not Allowed

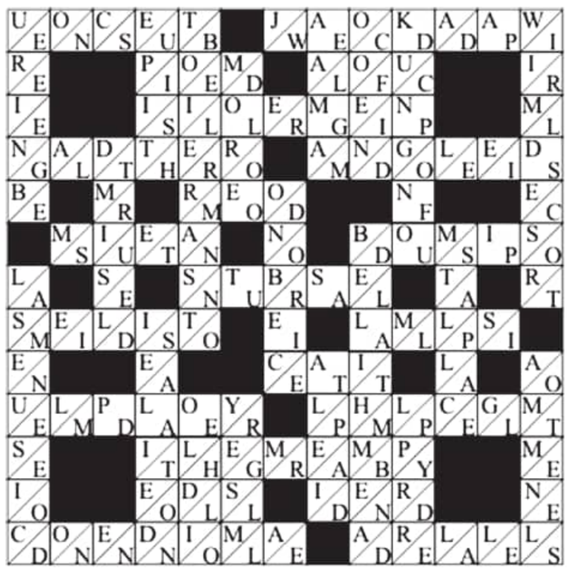
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



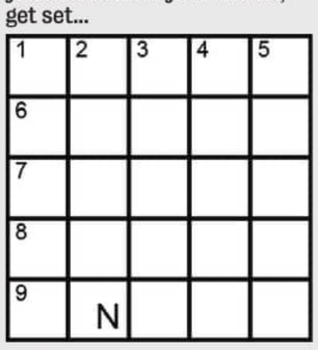
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

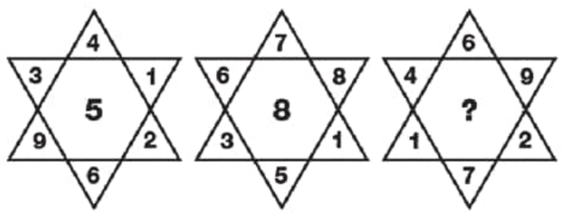
1 SS Hip; 6 A leap; 7 Trave; 8 He day; 9 Runic

DOWN

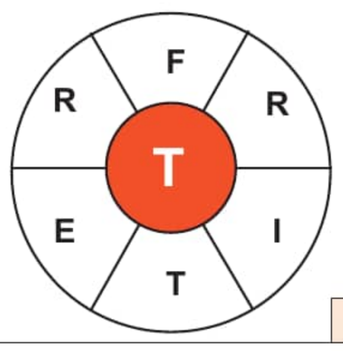
1 Aphis; 2 Van he; 3 Alice; 4 Drupe; 5 Trays

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the right hand star?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8		1				5		4
	4	2				1	3	
			1		7			
	6		9		8		4	
		5				6		
	9		5		3		2	
			3		1			
	1	4				2	7	
7		9				8		6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 12

3 4 5 8

Medium

= 11

3 7 7 8

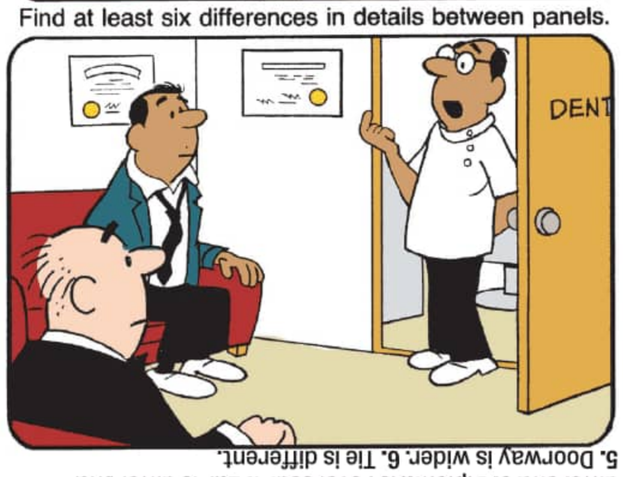
Hard

= 10

2 4 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



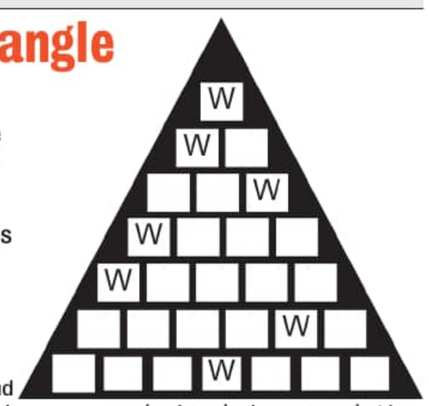
Differences: 1. Fingers are different. 2. Chair leg is different. 3. Diploma is reversed. 4. Ear is different. 5. Doorway is wider. 6. Tie is different.

Riddler

Not bitter, tart, sour, sweet Still these are quite good to eat. Hard around and soft within, Sharp or flat; thick or thin. Gotten, lost then once more around, Roots that never reach the ground. What are they?

Alpha triangle

1 Compass point
2 Wife of, abbr.
3 An angry dispute
4 Fermenting malt
5 Value
6 Tosses
7 Tumours or lumps

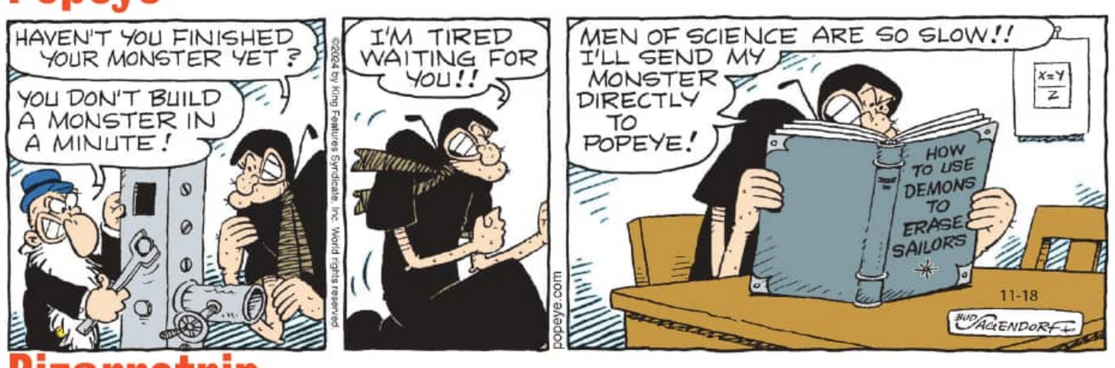


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED YOUR MONSTER YET?
YOU DON'T BUILD A MONSTER IN A MINUTE!
I'M TIRED WAITING FOR YOU!!
MEN OF SCIENCE ARE SO SLOW!!
I'LL SEND MY MONSTER DIRECTLY TO POPEYE!
X=Y/Z
HOW TO USE DEMONS TO ERASE SAILORS
11-18
BUD SAGENDORF
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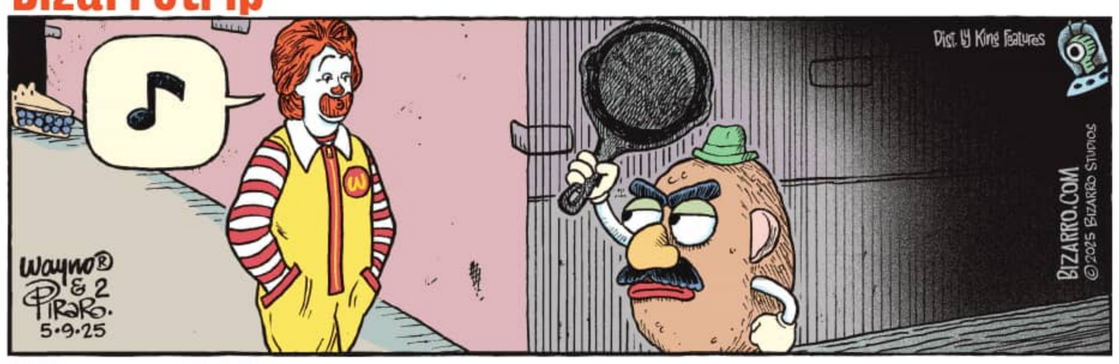
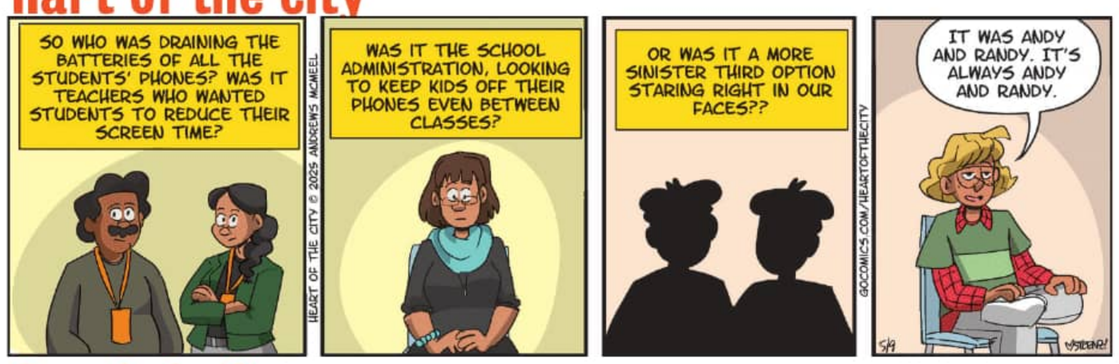
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


SO WHO WAS DRAINING THE BATTERIES OF ALL THE STUDENTS' PHONES? WAS IT TEACHERS WHO WANTED STUDENTS TO REDUCE THEIR SCREEN TIME?
WAS IT THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, LOOKING TO KEEP KIDS OFF THEIR PHONES EVEN BETWEEN CLASSES?
OR WAS IT A MORE SINISTER THIRD OPTION STARING RIGHT IN OUR FACES??
IT WAS ANDY AND RANDY. IT'S ALWAYS ANDY AND RANDY.
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5/9

Crankshaft

SOMETHING NEW FROM BEAN'S END, I ASSUME?
YOU BET! IT'S MY NEW 400,000 BTU 'WEED WIZARD' TORCH.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE DISASTER ON THE HORIZON HERE?
5-9
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, a short business trip might be on the cards. You may receive recognition for your recent achievements, enhancing your reputation among peers. Positive news from siblings could brighten your day. Job seekers aiming for management roles are likely to find success, and singles may take a step toward engagement.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You're blessed by the support of elders today. New sources of income may emerge, boosting your financial stability. Renovation plans for your home could begin, and a major order might significantly scale your family business. However, be cautious while signing contracts. Delayed projects may finally gain momentum.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A favorable day as Jupiter blesses you with wisdom and clarity. You'll successfully navigate challenges and may offer valuable advice to others, earning their respect. Acts of kindness toward the needy are likely. However, some domestic tension could arise due to disagreements with your spouse.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Mood swings and low energy may affect your productivity. Health concerns could disrupt your routine, so avoid rushing, reckless driving, or adventurous activities. Unnecessary spending may also impact your financial balance—exercise restraint.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A significant day for your professional life. A large business order could substantially boost growth. Your willpower is strong, helping you make confident decisions. Support from your team will be instrumental in implementing projects. Your wisdom helps you stay ahead of competitors.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A significant day for your professional life. A large business order could substantially boost growth. Your willpower is strong, helping you make confident decisions. Support from your team will be instrumental in implementing projects. Your wisdom helps you stay ahead of competitors.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
After overcoming some struggles, you could achieve a strong position professionally. An overseas trip related to work may be planned. Students are now more focused on their careers. You may indulge in art or decor purchases for your home or office and consider donating to a spiritual or charitable cause.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may feel challenging. Health issues or concerns about past debts could weigh on you. Self-doubt or guilt over minor mistakes might trouble you. Avoid risky travel or stubborn behavior, especially in personal relationships, as it may create tension.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon strengthens your inner resolve. New opportunities in work or business may appear, bringing long-term benefits.
Couples may receive joyful news related to childbirth. For lovebirds, it's a good day to make serious decisions, but ensure open and honest communication.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is stable and rewarding. Your efforts will likely be recognized by seniors, possibly leading to a promotion.
Previously stuck money may be recovered, improving cash flow. Legal matters could turn in your favor, and partnership-related issues may find resolution.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Positive news regarding employment is expected. Job seekers will feel more focused and determined, especially when preparing for competitive exams. Singles might take a step forward in love. Happy news related to children is also possible.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You might consider relocating or changing your surroundings today, but it's best to postpone any such decisions. Avoid making business investments for now. By evening, things will begin to settle, and wise advice from an elder can help you regain control over a tricky situation.

KIDZONE

Jadhav, Bengaluru

Vibha, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(8i / 10i)+(9i / 10i)]/[(18i / 20i) + (19i / 20i)]
[(1/90) + (1/10)]/[(1 / 380) + (1 / 20)]
(1 / 9)/(1 / 19)
(1/9) * 19 = 19 / 9

BULL'S EYE
fitter, fret, FRITTER, refit, rift, rtfe, ter, tire, trite

FAST FIVE

S	H	I	P	S
P	A	L	E	A
A	V	E	R	T
H	E	A	D	Y
I	N	C	U	R

QUOTE UNCODE
In memory everything seems to happen to music.

STRIKE OUT

U	N	C	U	T	J	A	C	K	D	A	W			
R	I	O	M	L	O	U	I							
I	S	L	O	E	G	I	N	L						
N	A	T	T	E	R	A	N	G	L	E	D			
E	R	R	E	D	F	E								
A	I	T	A	O	D	U	M	P	S					
S	E	N	U	R	S	E	A	T						
M	I	D	S	T	I	A	L	P	S					
N	A	C	A	T	L	O								
E	M	P	L	O	Y	P	H	L	E	G	M			
S	T	H	E	R	E	B	Y	E						
I	T	E	L	L	D	E	R	N						
C	O	N	D	O	L	E	D	E	A	L	S			

QUICK

T														
I	N	T	H	E	V	I	C	I	N	I	T	Y		
I	N	C	A		T		A		N		A			
O		P		B		R	H	O	D	E	S	I	A	
A	P	P	A	M		F	O	R	M	U	L	A		
M	E	A	N	I	N	G		G	R	A	N	T		
F	L	I	M	F	L	A	M		D	E	A	L		
T	H	E	D	A	R	K	K	N	I	G	H	T		
S		O		I		S		C		S				

MENSA PUZZLE
11. In each star, the number in the centre equals the difference between the sum of the numbers in the upwards triangle and the sum of the numbers in the downward triangle.

RIDDLER
Teeth

8	7	1	2	3	9	5	6	4
9	4	2	6	8	5	1	3	7
6	5	3	1	4	7	9	8	2
1	6	7	9	2	8	3	4	5
3	2	5	7	1	4	6	9	8
4	9	8	5	6	3	7	2	1
2	8	6	3	7	1	4	5	9
5	1	4	8	9	6	2	7	3
7	3	9	4	5	2	8	1	6

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
W, WO, Row, Wort, Worth, Throws, Growths.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 4 + 8 + 3 = 12
Medium
3 + 7 - 7 + 8 = 11
Hard
4 + 8 + 2 - 4 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

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Timothee in the world of ping-pong

The teaser for Timothee Chalamet starrer highly anticipated sports drama 'Marty Supreme' has finally dropped.

The A24 produced film, directed by Josh Safdie, is set to hit theatres on December 25.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Chalamet plays Marty Mauser in the film, a man chasing a dream no one else takes seriously: becoming a table tennis star. The trailer shows him in an intense ping-pong match and trying to explain the sport's popularity.

"I know it's hard to believe, but I'm telling you, this game, it fills stadiums overseas," he says. "And it's only a matter of time before I'm staring at you from the cover of a Wheaties box."

The teaser also shows Chalamet's character meeting a glamorous movie star played by Gwyneth Paltrow. "I've never talked to an actual movie star," he says. "You know, I'm something of a performer, too."

The cast also includes Odessa A'Zion, Kevin O'Leary, Tyler Okonma (Tyler, the Creator), Abel Ferrara, and Fran Drescher. The script was written by Safdie and Ronald Bronstein, with both serving as producers along with Chalamet, Eli Bush, and Anthony Katagas.

'Marty Supreme' is Safdie's first solo directorial feature since 2008's The Pleasure of Being Robbed. It also marks Chalamet's first film since his Oscar-nominated turn as Bob Dylan in A Complete Unknown.

–ANI

Put a ring on it?

Gabriella flaunts diamond ring sparking talk of wedding with beau Liam

Are wedding bells on the horizon for Liam Hemsworth and Gabriella Brooks? The 35-year-old actor and his 29-year-old model girlfriend have sparked engagement chatter after Gabriella was recently spotted sporting a sparkling diamond ring on that finger.

The sighting happened during Chris Hemsworth's birthday celebrations in Spain last weekend, where Gabriella was seen showing off the ring to filmmaker Taika Waititi. Neither Liam nor Gabriella has commented on the speculation. The couple, who have been together since late 2019, were first linked in December of that year. Just weeks ago, they stepped out together on the yellow carpet at the London premiere of Chris Hemsworth's National Geographic series 'Limitless: Live Better Now'.

Hemsworth and Brooks showed their romance was still going strong in the summer of 2024, stepping out together in Athens for the Balmain Brunch & Pool Party hosted by Olivier Rousteing, celebrating a collaboration with the One&Only Aesthesis. The couple was photographed alongside Luke Evans at the luxury hotel's grand opening event

While Liam and Gabriella have kept their romance largely private, they went semi-Instagram official in November 2020. The occasion? Luke Hemsworth's 40th birthday was celebrated with a glamorous 1920s-themed party in Australia.

Chris Hemsworth marked the milestone by posting a black-and-white snapshot from the day, which featured Liam and Gabriella's first appearance on his Instagram. The couple posed alongside Luke and his wife, Samantha; Chris and his wife, Elsa; and the Hemsworth family's parents, Craig and Leonie. "Happy 40th birthday @ hemsworthluke you big legend!!" Chris captioned the post.

–ETimes

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DAKHNI BIRYANI
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T&C – Offer valid only for dinein and takeaway. Exciting offers on online orders.
2 MUTTON KEEMA BIRYANI
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SWIGGY AWARD 2025
RESTAURANT AWARDS 2025
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